

Dear Neighbor,

As Senate chairman of the legislature's Select Committee on Children, I have a unique opportunity and responsibility to lead the way on passing child-related bills. Not only as your state Senator, but as the father of six and a grandfather of eleven, I take this responsibility very seriously.

Recently, the Children's Committee finished its business for the legislative session by passing 33 bills, including measures that would accelerate the adoption process, allow some adopted children access to their original birth certificates, educate children on the dangers of steroids, and provide new oversight of state Department of Children and Families facilities.

But committee approval is not enough; I promise to work hard to achieve passage of these bills by the full legislature.

Each of these bills is intended to help children—some of whom are living on the fringes of society, and who need a strong voice at the Capitol—to become secure and productive citizens of Connecticut. I and the Children's Committee are that voice.

Sincerely,



Edward Meyer
State Senator, 12th District



Your State Senator

EDWARD MEYER

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FROM YOUR STATE SENATOR **EDWARD MEYER**

2006 CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE BILLS

None of these bills has yet become law; at this point they have all been referred to other committees. I will work hard to ensure these committees pass these bills along for a full vote of the legislature. Bills that were approved by the Children's Committee include the following:

S. B. 46, An Act Establishing an Electronic Message Children's Protection Registry

This bill would create in the state Department of Consumer Protection a list of e-mail addresses, cell phone and pager numbers, etc. that a child has access to but which businesses and individuals could not send information to without prior approval.



H.B. 5253, An Act Establishing a Public Education and Outreach Program on the Dangers of Steroid Use in Children and Youth

This bill establishes and funds a public education and outreach program to inform adolescents in Connecticut about the dangers of illegal anabolic steroid use. This bill has been referred to the Public Health Committee.

S.B. 366, An Act Concerning Grandparent Notification When a Child is Removed From the Home

This bill provides that, if the Commissioner of Children and Families removes a child from the custody of a parent, the commissioner shall seek to identify and notify the grandparents of the child after the child is removed from the home. Grandparents are often good protectors of their grandchildren.



S.B. 4, An Act Providing Adopted Persons with Access to Information in Their Original Birth Certificates

This bill provides for an adopted person born in Connecticut to receive a copy of his or her original birth certificate. This bill is prospective, NOT retroactive, meaning only adopted children born in Connecticut on or after October 1, 2006 may apply for and receive a copy of their original birth certificate at age 18 (i.e. on or after Oct. 1, 2024).

S.B. 5, 6 and 30

The adoption process in Connecticut now often takes several years. These bills accelerate the process and promote the adoption of children from other states and countries and adoption as an alternative to foster care.